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**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. §132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/596,755
Filing Date	June 15, 2000
First Named Inventor	Hisashi Ohtani
Group Art Unit	1765
Examiner Name	Robert Kunemund
Attorney Docket Number	07977-226002

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114**a. ☒ Previously submitted

- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on March 21, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☐ Enclosed

- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

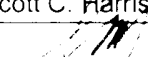
2. **Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☒ Other Any deficiencies
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 860 enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Scott C. Harris	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	32,030
Signature		Date	April 15, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSIONI hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to **Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231** or facsimile transmitted to the